

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



Remembering Our Fallen Heroes – On Monday, May 28th, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., the City will hold its Municipal Cemeteries Memorial Day Service at Lauderdale Memorial Park, 2001 SW 4th Avenue. Please join us as we pay tribute to veterans, who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation in the United States Armed Forces. Following this service, the William C. Morris American Legion Post 36 will host a Memorial Day Service from 11:00 a.m. until Noon in front of the Sandy Nininger statue, on the Riverwalk between the river and the Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

Strategic Plan – As part of our strategic planning and budget process, on April 20th, the Commission worked together in a nine-hour session to review 2011 achievements and cost reductions. We prioritized goals, strategies, and projects for the upcoming fiscal year. This was a forward-thinking and positive brainstorming event, which will be finalized and incorporated into ongoing planning efforts that will dovetail with the citywide visioning process.

No-Panhandling Ordinance – On May 1st, the Commission adopted Ordinance No. C-12-10, by which panhandling, begging, and solicitation are prohibited at bus stops or in any public transportation facility; on public transportation vehicles; in areas within 15 feet of sidewalk cafés; at City-owned or operated parking lots, parking garages, and parking pay stations; in City-owned or operated parks; in areas within 15 feet of automatic teller machines; in areas within 15 feet of the entrance or exit of a commercial or governmental building; and on private property (unless the person panhandling has permission from the property owner). “Aggressive” panhandling is banned citywide. Violations are classified as misdemeanors, carrying a \$500 fine and/or 60 days in jail. For related information on this issue, please see <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/give/index.htm>.

Historic Preservation Awards – The City has received an award from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. In the category, Preservation Media/Education, this award is for the Architectural Resource Surveys of historic properties in the Sailboat Bend, Beverly Heights, Colee Hammock, and Central Beach neighborhoods. City of Fort Lauderdale planner, Ms. Patricia Garbe-Morillo, led this comprehensive survey project.

In related news, our Historic Preservation Board has recognized the City’s first Historic Preservation Commendation Awardees. Our District IV – Tarpon River neighbor, Mr. Joseph A. Bellavance, has been acknowledged for his work on the Lewis Landing site. Some properties in District IV earned honors, including the Fort Lauderdale Woman’s Club, the Little Hammock house, OB’s Breakfast House, Stranahan Park, and West Side Fire Station No. 3. In addition, Stranahan High School won an award for its Centennial Mural project.

Congratulations To All!

Hardy Park – You may have noticed all the recent construction activity at Hardy Park lately. Renovations and landscaping are moving forward. Mulley Grass has been planted around the fence of the sidewalk near the playground, and Cypress trees have been installed in the retention area. Green Island Ficus has been planted along the sidewalk, adjacent to South Andrews Avenue and the main park sign. As of May 9th, 500 Verbena plants have been installed. There will be approximately 500 more of these plants added at a later date when more stock becomes available (in the next few weeks). In addition, two new light poles, which were installed for field play, have been wired in. The next phase will be to start constructing the walking path with plants put in around the path. The City will be adding sod to the retention area, as well. I expect that Hardy Park will soon become a wonderful recreational asset to be enjoyed by the Tarpon River neighborhood and other visitors for years to come.

Mix It. Curb It. – In the Summer of 2012, the City will launch Mix It. Curb It., a “single-stream” recycling program to make recycling easier. Residential customers will receive new, blue, 65-gallon carts that will hold all clean recyclables. You’ll be able to mix these items together into one cart and roll it to the curb. To schedule a presentation at an upcoming homeowner or civic association meeting, contact the Office of Recycling: E-mail RivanaS@fortlauderdale.gov or call 954-828-7705.

Code Issues – If you happen to come across a potential Code violation, you may contact City Code Enforcement personnel directly. Please call Ms. Diana Cahill at 954-828-5225 or e-mail DCahill@fortlauderdale.gov, so the report can be logged into the system for an inspection and follow-up. For more information, please consult http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/building_services/code.htm.

Summer Fun For Everyone! The Third Annual Great American Beach Party is set for Saturday, May 26th. For details and the schedule of events, please go to <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/GABP/index.htm>. The City also offers a wide range of activities during the summer months. For specifics, check the Parks and Recreation website at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/life/index.htm>.

Office Contact: Please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 (e-mail: mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov), for an office appointment, or if you would like me to attend an upcoming neighborhood meeting.